Construction of the pilot channel at Kosi River

452. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has urged the Central Government to secure technical recommendations of the Central Committee of Water Resources experts pertaining to the sealing of the Kosi breach and construction of the pilot channel to revert the course of the Kosi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government with the help of State Government of Bihar propose to undertake the task of plugging the Kosi breach to avoid further recurrence of floods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of Bihar proposes to undertake the task of plugging the breach of Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage by the middle of December, 2008 and the bund is expected to be restored to its original section by the end of March, 2009. For the purpose of closure of breach, Government of Bihar has constituted a Kosi Breach Closure Advisory Team (KBCAT) under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Sanyal, retired Engineer -in-Chief and ex-Chairman, GFCC, which has representation of Government of India (Member, GFCC). Further, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 40.00 Crore as advance to the Government of Bihar for undertaking the works of breach closure of Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage. In addition, Government of India has also constituted a High Level Expert Team (HLET) under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Restoration of water bodies

453. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water bodies identified for repair, renovation and restoration in Delhi;

(b) whether the large number of water bodies are under encroachment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to remove encroachments therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources implemented a pilot

scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies during the 10th Plan. NCT of Delhi was not covered under the scheme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

20 feet deep cracks area near Allahabad District

†454. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain parts of the country, particularly in four villages of Meza Tehsil of District Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, about 20 feet deep cracks have appeared on the surface of earth and thereby affecting a 5 kilometer stretch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether over exploitation of the underground water is one of the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to avert this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per reports received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Geological Survey of India, Lucknow, the cracks appeared on the surface of the earth in some parts of the country including 6 villages of Meza Tehsil of District Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The report also indicates that these cracks developed due to excessive drying up of soil as a result of excessive withdrawal of ground water and over saturation of soil mass due to heavy rainfall of short duration.

The Government of India has circulated a Model Bill to all States / UTs to enact suitable legislation for controlled withdrawal of ground water.

Bill for control of flood

455. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States to which the Bill on measures to check flood in 1975, prepared by Central Water Commission, was sent;

(b) whether the Bill includes the right to formulate policy on evacuation of people affected by flood providing compensation to people in flood affected areas and settlement in flood-prone areas;

(c) the States which had made a legislation by getting that Bill pursued in their respective State Assemblies;

(d) whether the Bill was passed in State Assemblies of Rajasthan, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.